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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

UPON THE

Sanitary Condition of the District  
during the year 1948.



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**To the Norman Cross Rural District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

The report has been constructed on similar lines as last year's report, as requested by the Ministry of Health.

**STAFF.**

Medical Officer of Health ..... H. Pattinson, M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector ..... G. F. TAYLOR, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.



STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area .....	35795 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1948) .....	8541
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1948 .....	2253
Rateable Value .....	£29,174
Value of Penny Rate .....	£112

The Norman Cross Rural District consists of 16 parishes, a number of which are situated on the extensive deposit of Oxford Clay which forms the Fletton Brickfields in which a great many inhabitants of the district find employment.

With this exception the population is solely employed in agriculture. The South Eastern portion of the district is Fen Lands, land recovered by an extensive drainage system some fifty years ago, from what was formerly Whittlesea Mere.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS	Birth Rate per 1000 population .....	18.0
STILL BIRTHS	Rate per 1000 total births .....	19.1
DEATHS	Death rate per 1000 population .....	8.2
	Deaths from Puerperal Causes per 1000 total (live and still) births .....	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age:—		
	All infants per 1,000 live births .....	51.9
	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	55.6
	Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „ .....	Nil
	Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	18
	Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	Nil
	Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	Nil
	Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .....	Nil

RATES

	Per 1,000 Population			Per 1,000 Live Births
	Live Births	Still Births	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
Norman Cross R.D.C.	18.0	0.35	8.2	51.9
England & Wales	17.9	0.42	10.8	34.0

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures):—

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Males	Females	Totals
All Causes.		39	31	70
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	.....	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	.....	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	.....	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	.....	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	.....	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	.....	—	3	3
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	.....	—	—	—
8. Syphilitic disease	.....	—	—	—
9. Influenza	.....	—	—	—
10. Measles	.....	—	—	—
11. Ac. polio-myel. & polio-enceph.	.....	—	—	—
12. Ac. inf. enceph.	.....	—	—	—
13. Cancer of buc. cav. & oesoph.				
(M) uterus (F)	.....	1	—	1
14. Cancer of stomach & duodenum	.....	2	—	2
15. Cancer of Breast	.....	—	2	2
16. Cancer of all other sites	.....	11	2	13
17. Diabetes	.....	—	—	—
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	.....	1	2	3
19. Heart disease	.....	9	9	18
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	.....	1	1	2
21. Bronchitis	.....	—	—	—
22. Pneumonia	.....	2	1	3
23. Other respiratory diseases	.....	—	—	—
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	.....	—	—	—
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	.....	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis	.....	—	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases	.....	1	—	1
28. Nephritis	.....	1	—	1
29. Puer. & post-abortion. sepsis	.....	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	.....	—	—	—
31. Premature Birth	.....	3	1	4
32. Con. mal. birth inj. infant. dis.	.....	—	2	2
33. Suicide	.....	1	—	1
34. Road Traffic Acc.	.....	—	—	—
35. Other violent causes	.....	1	1	2
36. All other causes	.....	5	7	12

It will be observed that with the exception of Infant Mortality these rates follow closely the general trend in England and Wales.

The sharp rise in Infant Mortality calls for some comment. It should be remembered that the number of births involved in these calculations is comparatively small which tends towards wide annual fluctuations of the Infantile Mortality as shown below :—

	1940	1941	1942
NORMAN CROSS R.D.C.	24	84	25
ENGLAND & WALES	55	59	49

An analysis of the infant deaths reveals that half were due to prematurity, while the remaining half were equally divided between Respiratory Diseases and Congenital Diseases.

37.5% of the deaths occurred among families living in hutted camps, although these families constitute less than 12% of the district population.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Prior to the inception of the National Health Service on the 5th July, 1948, there was no change from previous years in the provision of Health Services. Since the 5th July, services have been provided as follows :

### (a) Laboratory Facilities :

No change has taken place in the general arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, or by the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

### (b) Ambulance Facilities :

- (1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Huntingdon.
- (2) For non-infectious and accident cases the area is covered by the ambulance service of the Soke of Peterborough County Council under an agreement with Huntingdon County Council, which is the Local Health Authority responsible. This arrangement is working satisfactorily.

(c) **Nursing in the Home :**

Nursing in the district is carried on by qualified nurses employed by the Huntingdon County Council. All nurses are certified midwives and attend the majority of maternity cases under the Domiciliary Midwifery Scheme.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres:**

Infant Welfare work in the Farcet area is still carried out by the Fletton and District Infant and Child Welfare Association by arrangement with Huntingdon County Council, the Welfare Clinic being held at London Road, Old Fletton, every week on Tuesday from 2 to 4 p.m.

**YAXLEY.**

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held at the Village Hall every 4th Friday in the month from 2-30—4 p.m.

**ELTON.**

The Infant Welfare Centre is situated at the Highgate Hall and meets on the 2nd Thursday each month at 2-30—4 p.m.

The following additional Clinics are provided :—

School Clinic (Minor Ailment)	.....	London Road Clinic, Old Fletton, Every Wednesday 10—12.
School Clinic (Minor Ailment)	.....	Yaxley Village Hall, Every 4th Friday 10—12.
Eyes	.....	London Road Clinic. By Appt.
Dental Clinic	.....	High Street, Old Fletton.
Tuberculosis	.....	High Street, Old Fletton, 1st and 3rd Tuesday in the month. By Appt.



Orthopaedic .....	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, 2nd Tuesday in the month. By Appt.
Nose, Throat & Ear Clinic .....	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, Every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appt.
Venereal Diseases .....	28 Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough. Mixed Session—Wednesday 4—6 p.m.  Women Only — Monday 10—12 noon. New cases and special treatment only. Friday 10—12 noon.  Men Only — Monday 4—6 p.m. New cases and special treatment only. Friday 4—6 p.m.

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or oftener if necessary) and once after confinement.

(e) **Hospitals :**

- (1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Huntingdon.
- (2) General hospital services including Out-patient facilities are provided at Peterborough Memorial Hospital.
- (3) Provision is made for Maternity Cases at The Gables, Peterborough, or the Maternity Hospital, Paxton Park.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Surveyor's Office,

Booster Station,

Yaxley, Peterborough,

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Sir,

I beg to present my fourth Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

### NEW HOUSING.

(a) **Council.** The following houses were completed and occupied during the year:—

Folksworth	.....	2	
Chesterton	.....	2	Holmewood Temporary 4
Orton Waterville	.....	4	
Stilton	.....	4	
Elton	.....	2	
Farcet	.....	14	
		<hr/>	
		28	
		<hr/>	

Houses in course of construction:—

Elton	.....	2
Farcet	.....	6
Yaxley	.....	8
Stibbington	.....	2
Stilton	.....	18

Permission had been given for a further 18 at Yaxley and 6 at Orton Longueville and a new house type plan had been prepared and approved and tenders received.

(b) **Private** 7 private houses were completed and 6 additional homes provided by reconstruction.

### WATER SUPPLY.

Work commenced on the Water Contract No. 5 (£21,000) in August and mains were laid as far as Stibbington School by the end of the year and connection made to the old main. The supply from the well at Wansford ceased on 24th December.

The following supplies were connected to the Council's main during the year:—

19 Building supplies.  
28 New Meters.  
127 New domestic supplies.

## SEWERAGE.

The Consulting Engineers prepared all tendering documents for the 5 Parish scheme and permission to advertise was being sought.

The schemes for all the other parishes were classed by the Ministry as outside the permitted expenditure and were deferred.

## REFUSE COLLECTION.

The Council's service started on Monday, 19th January, and has proved a very welcome and effective service. Collection is made fortnightly throughout the district.

## HOUSING SURVEY.

Steady progress has again been made, and 429 houses have been inspected. 97 houses were repaired and improved as result of informal action.

## SUMMARY OF VISITS.

The following is a summary of visits made by the Department during the 12 months :—

Inspections re Nuisances .....	358
„ „ Infectious Diseases .....	36
„ „ Cowsheds and Dairies .....	92
„ „ Housing Acts .....	429
„ „ Council and Temporary Housing	1115
„ „ Water Supply .....	395
„ „ Rats and Mice .....	21
„ „ Factories and Workshops (including Bakehouses) .....	90
„ „ Sewers and Works .....	381
„ „ New Housing Sites .....	48
„ „ New Buildings and Civil Licences	551
„ „ Caravans .....	13
„ „ New Drains .....	81
„ „ Refuse Collection .....	117
„ „ Interviews .....	518
„ „ Committee and Council Meetings	62
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	4307

**PLANS.**

The following plans have been deposited during the year :—

New Houses 14, 2 layouts for 32 houses, Alterations and Additions to existing houses 26, Temporary Buildings 38, Agricultural Buildings 22, Garages 12, Conservatories 4, Laboratory 1, Electricity Sub-Station 1, Bus Shelter 1, Alterations to Schools 1, Shops 2, TOTAL 124.

Since July 1st the Hunts. County Council have been the Planning Authority, but every plan is received by the Council and dealt with under the Public Health Act, and any recommendations made from a planning point of view to the County Council, who reciprocate by giving details before approving and refusing all plans.

**NUISANCES :**

Abated as a result of informal action	.....	.....	.....	160
Abated as a result of Statutory action	.....	.....	.....	2

Analysis	No.	No. of Inspections
Premises	22	45
Accumulation of Refuse	35	61
Foul ditches etc.	28	72
Drains	75	122
Animals	7	13
Dampness	23	55

Slaughter Houses	No. licensed or registered	Nil
	No. of inspections	Nil
Offensive trades (Health Act 1936)	No. established	Nil
	No. of inspections	Nil

**DISINFECTION :**

Cases of infectious diseases reported	19	No. of inspections	36
Rooms disinfected (a) Tuberculosis	4	(b) Others	24
Schools disinfected	1		

**CLOSETS :**

No. of houses at the end of the year with W.C's	672
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ Pail Closets	1341
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ Privy Vaults	365
No. of W.C.'s constructed during the year for new houses	44
No. of W.C.'s newly constructed for old property	20
No. of Privies converted to W.C.'s	7



<b>ASHBINS</b>	New provided	43
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## **WATER SUPPLY :**

Samples taken from main piped supply	12
No. condemned	Nil
Samples taken from Wells	2
No. unsatisfactory	2

## **HOUSING :**

### **Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :**

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	539
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	91
Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	229

### **Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices :**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	22
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### **Action under Statutory Powers :**

Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices	2
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1

## **MILK SUPPLY :**

No. of Cowsheds and Dairies	51
Total No. of inspections	57
No. of Retailers' Premises	13
Total No. of inspections	10

## **DISINFESTATION :**

(a) Bed Bugs.	No. of houses infested	9
	No. of houses disinfested	9
(b) Rats and Mice.	No. of houses inspected	21
	No. of houses treated and cleared	1

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Total No. of Factories on Register (including bakehouses)	.....	72		
No. of inspections	.....	77		
No. in which nuisances abated	.....	1		
Homework	.....	No. of outworkers	.....	Nil
		No. of houses	.....	Nil
Legal Proceedings	.....			Nil

### Conclusion.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Council for their courtesy and consideration, to the Medical Officer of Health and the Clerk for their valued help during the year and to the staff for their loyal co-operation.

GEO. F. TAYLOR,

25th July, 1949.

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1948.

DISEASE	TOTAL													Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	under 1 year	1 — 2	2 — 3	3 — 4	4 — 5	5 — 10	10 — 15	15 — 20	20 — 35	35 — 45	45 — 65	65 & upwards			
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Scarlet Fever	14	—	—	2	1	6	4	—	—	1	—	—	12	—	
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
Measles	18	1	2	3	2	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough	5	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was a substantial decrease of notifications due to the small number of measles cases in the district.

Scarlet Fever was more prevalent, half the number of cases occurring in Yaxley where there was a localized outbreak in January.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following table sets out the number of children immunised in the district, together with the figure of the total child population:—

UNDER 5 YEARS		BETWEEN 5—15 YEARS.	
Number immunised	Estimated Population	Number immunised	Estimated Population
282	697	857	1056

It is noticeable that while the level of protection among schoolchildren remains at a high level, the protection of the 0—5 age group leaves much to be desired.

There appears to be a growing tendency to postpone immunisation until the child is attending school. This practice saves parents' time but leaves the young child unprotected at a time when the risk of infection is considerable.

It should be borne in mind that despite the continuing decline of notifications in the Country, the case fatality rate has remained practically stationary for the last 7 years, and that the risk of the disease proving fatal is much greater in those who have not been immunised.



**Tuberculosis.**

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 .....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25 .....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 .....	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
55 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL :—	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	—

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936 dealing with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. PATTINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.





